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LS 151L.04: Introduction to the Humanities

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LS 151L Introduction to the Humanities

Paul A. Dietrich
Office: LA 101A
Phone: 243-2805
Hours: MWF 11-12 & by
appointment
Section 04; 4 credits

Fall, 2002
TuTh 9:40-11:00
SG 303
Th 11:10-12:00
(ULH 101) or
7:10-8:00 (SS 352)

An introduction to the western humanities through an investigation of selected texts from the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, classical Greek and Latin antiquity, the New Testament and early Christian literature. Topics to be considered include: conceptions of self, family, community, cosmos and the gods; ideas of virtue, wisdom, piety, justice, law, and the state; the nature of the good life, good and evil, and the meaning of suffering; the role of myth, symbol and ritual; conceptions of creation, time, and temporality; varieties of visionary experience and the poetics of change, conversion and metamorphosis; the language of love and desire; imagery of journey and pilgrimage; genres of classical and biblical literatures; idealism, realism, humanism and naturalism.

"A classic is a book that has never finished saying what it has to say. A classic is something that tends to relegate the concerns of the moment to the status of background noise, but at the same time this background noise is something we cannot do without. (Conversely) A classic is something that persists as a background noise even when the most incompatible momentary concerns are in control of the situation."

Italo Calvino

Course Syllabus

Sept. 3, 5	Introduction. Old Testament/Hebrew Bible: Genesis
10, 12	Law (Torah) and Prophets: Exodus, Amos, Isaiah
17, 19, 24	Wisdom (Writings): Song of Songs, Psalms, Job
26, Oct. 1, 3	Greek Epic and Homer's Odyssey
8, 10	Greek Lyric and Sappho
15, 17	Greek Drama and Sophocles' Oedipus Cycle
22	Midterm exam
24, 29, 31	Greek Philosophy and Plato's Dialogues
Nov. 7, 12, 14	New Testament: the Gospel of Luke
19, 21	Paul's Letter to the Romans
28	Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec. 3, 5, 10	Augustine's Confessions. The Poetics of Conversion
12	Conclusion and Review
18	Final Exam - 10:10-12:00

Required Reading

The New Oxford Annotated Bible (w/Apocrypha) (Coogan, ed.; Oxford)
Homer, The Odyssey (Fagles, tr.; Penguin)
Sophocles, Three Tragedies (Greene, tr.; Chicago)
Sappho, Sappho (Barnard, tr.; California)
Plato, Five Dialogues (Grube, tr.; Hackett)
St. Augustine, The Confessions (Boulding, tr.; Vintage)

Course Requirements

1. Class meetings will be supplemented by weekly plenary lectures (attendance required). Written responses (2 pages) required to twelve of the lectures due Tuesday following the lecture. (No late responses)
2. Essay (4-6 pages) responding to biblical materials due Oct. 1; revised version due two weeks after return of first essay.
3. Prompt completion of assigned reading. Quizzes on readings as needed.
4. Grades will be based on papers and exams; however, attendance and participation will be considered in the final grade.
5. Midterm Exam and Final Exam.

No extensions on written assignments. Evidence of plagiarism will result in failure of the course.

Sept. 23 Last day to add/drop by Cyberbear & to pay fees
Nov. 5 Election Day - holiday
Dec. 6 Last day to withdraw from course
Dec. 13 Last day for drop/grade option petitions

"Classics are certain texts, events, images, rituals, symbols and persons (in which we acknowledge) a disclosure of a reality we cannot but name truth...some disclosure of reality in a moment of 'recognition' which surprises, provokes, challenges, shocks, and eventually transforms us; an experience that upsets conventional opinions and expands the sense of the possible; indeed a realized experience of that which is essential, that which endures - the presence of classics in every culture is undeniable. Their memory haunts us. Their actual effects in our lives endure and await ever new appropriations, constantly new interpretations."

David Tracy

LS 151 Plenary Lecture Series – Fall 2002

<i>Date</i>	<i>Lecture</i>	<i>Speaker</i>
1. September 5	Introduction to Course/ Genesis	Paul Dietrich, Liberal Studies
2. September 12	Law and the Prophets	Jean Larson, Campus Ministry
3. September 19	Job and Wisdom	James Scott, Foreign Languages
4. September 26	Introduction to Greek Civilization	Hayden Ausland, FLL
5. October 3	Hero and Antihero in Homer	Stewart Justman, English
6. October 10	Greek Lyric	Linda Gillison, FLL
7. October 17	Greek Drama	Rina Quartarone, FLL
8. October 24	Plato and Greek Philosophy	Hayden Ausland, FLL
9. October 31	Ancient Theology and Science	Rina Quartarone, FLL
10. November 7	Roman History Overview	Linda Gillison, FLL
11. November 14	The Gospels	Tom Lee, Liberal Studies
12. November 21	The Letters of Paul (Romans)	Bruce Bigley, English
13. November 28	Thanksgiving Holiday	
14. December 5	Augustine's <u>Confessions</u>	Paul Dietrich, Liberal Studies
15. December 12	Roman and Early Christian Art	Margaret Mudd, Art History

Lectures are given at 11:10 –12:00 in ULH (Urey Lecture Hall) and repeated at 7:10-8:00 p.m. in SS (Social Sciences) 352